

## Intersections

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# From the Publisher

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# Purpose Statement

| This publication is by and largely for the academic communities of the twenty-eight colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is published by the Vocation and Education unit of the ELCA. The publication has its home at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, which has generously offered leadership and physical and financial support as an institutional sponsor for the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators that have addressed the church-college/university partnership. The ELCA has sponsored an annual Vocation of the Lutheran College Conference. The primary purpose of *Intersections* is to enhance and continue such dialogue. It will do so by:

- Lifting up the vocation of Lutheran colleges and universities
- Encouraging thoughtful dialogue about the partnership of colleges and universities with the church
- Offering a forum for concerns and interests of faculty at the intersection of faith, learning, and teaching
- Raising for debate issues about institutional missions, goals, objectives, and learning priorities
- Encouraging critical and productive discussion on our campuses of issues focal to the life of the church
- Serving as a bulletin board for communications among institutions and faculties
- Publishing papers presented at conferences sponsored by the ELCA and its institutions
- Raising the level of awareness among faculty about the Lutheran heritage and connectedness of their institutions, realizing a sense of being part of a larger family with common interests and concerns.

## From the Publisher

| Through the years, I have donned many roles and titles: son, husband, student, employee, father, pastor, and others. My new role and title as Director for Colleges and Universities for the churchwide organization of the ELCA brings with it a new role and title I never expected to carry: publisher. Nonetheless, I am delighted that the Vocation and Education unit sponsors and publishes this journal of conversation about the “intersection” of faith, learning and teaching in Lutheran higher education. With this issue of *Intersections*, I am pleased to assume the duties of publisher and to continue Vocation and Education’s sponsorship of the journal.

Let me introduce myself. I became Director for Colleges and Universities as of August 1, 2008, although I have been with the churchwide organization since December 2000. I will continue serving as Associate Executive Director of the Vocation and Education unit, with responsibility for leading the unit’s working group for Educational Partnerships and Institutions. This group is a team of fifteen persons who staff churchwide ministries in theological education and seminaries, lifelong learning/continuing education, schools (primary and secondary) and early childhood education, “first call” theological education, *Lutheran Partners*, theology and daily life ministry, the Book of Faith Initiative, and of course, colleges and universities, which is the portfolio I directly carry along with my colleague, Marilyn Olson. I serve in these capacities under Call as a pastor of this church. My academic field is American Church History. Before coming to the churchwide offices, I served for ten years at Auburn Theological Seminary, as Associate Director of its Center for the Study of Theological Education.

It is with thanks for the good work of Dr. Arne Selby that I begin my relationship to *Intersections*. This journal prospered during Arne’s tenure as Director for Colleges and Universities. He developed *Intersections* into the important voice it has become for Lutheran higher education.

This issue looks at a theme dear to Arne: the aims and purposes of Lutheran higher education. The Rev. Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, offers reflections on the core mission of higher education related to the ELCA. Two pieces included in this issue are from Wartburg College’s fall 2008 campus conversation about the college’s mission as a college that takes faith seriously. First, my essay attempts to discuss the implications for being a church-related college of several key shifts in the relationship between religion and culture in America in recent decades. This essay was first presented as a lecture at Wartburg in September 2008. Later that fall, the college convened a dialogue between Dr. Robert Benne of Roanoke College and Dr. Thomas Christenson of Capital University about what it means to be a college of the church (see p. 12). A sermon by Luke Lambert III of Wartburg College, preached in the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 2006 on Jesus’ desire to “save our minds,” rounds out our conversation in this issue of *Intersections*.

MARK WILHELM | Director for Colleges and Universities